

## Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6931

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, TECH, ENRG, BR

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM: JOINT TECHNICAL SUBGROUPS

REF: (A) STATE 175952 (B) STATE 134323

1. SUMMARY: GOB TENTATIVELY RECEPTIVE TO POSSIBILITY FLOATED UNOFFICIALLY BY EMBASSY THAT BOTH S&T SUBGROUP AND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY SUBGRUP MEET IN BRASILIA IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO IAEA RIO CONFERENCE- I.E., DURING SEPT 15 TO 17 PERIOD. CNP PREPARED TO MEET WITH NSF BEFORE THIS DATE TO COMMIT BALANCE OF 1976 FUNDS TO A JOINT BILATERAL PROJECTS UNDER THEIR MOU. END SUMMARY.

2. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBGROUP: FIRST MEETING OF GOB PREPARATORY COMMITTEE NOW PLANNED FOR LATE JULY. EMBASSY EXPECTS THAT SOME INFORMATION WILL BE PASSED TO SCICOUN FROM THIS AND SUBSEQUENT MEET TO ASSIST US PREPARATORY EFFORTS (FYI: ( CNP HAS PROVIDED SCICOUN WITH COPY OF ITS STUDY OF GOB INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INCLUDING ENERGY TECHNOLOGY. END FYI.) GOB HAS AS YET TAKEN NO EXCEPTION TO US PROPOSED AGENDA FOR FIRST MEETING ALTHOUGH PRINCIPAL INTEREST APPEARS TO BE IN MECHANISM FOR JOINT FUNDING OR COOPERATION AS WORTHWHILE PROJECTS DEVELOP AND IN RELATION OF EXECUTIVE

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AGENCY CONCEPT, CURRENT NSF/CNP BILATERAL PROGRAM,

AND SCIENCE BILATERAL AGREEMENT OF 1971 TO NEW SUBGROUPS. GOB CO-CHAIRMAN WOULD PROBABLY BE AMBASSADOR FRANCISCO DE ASSIS GRIECO, CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY (EQUIVALENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY) WITH CNP REPRESENTED BY JOSE PELUCIO FERREIRA, VICE-PRESIDENT IN ABSENCE OF DION.

3. ENERGY TECHNOLOGY SUBGROUP: ON JULY 19 ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY PROPOSED TO EMBASSY THAT FIRST MEETING TAKE PLACE SECOND WEEK IN AUGUST IN BRASILIA. FROM KNOWLEDGE OF OES BUREAU SITUATION, EMBASSY RAISED POSSIBILITY OF MID-SEPTEMBER DATE, PRIOR TO IAEA RIO CONFERENCE, WHICH IS ALSO ACCEPTABLE TO GOB. GOB CO-CHAIRMAN WOULD PROBABLY BE AMBASSADOR PAULO CABRAL DE MELLO CHIEF OF THE ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT (EQUIVALENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND A VERY SENIOR DIPLOMAT) WITH THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY REPRESENTED BY SECRETARY-GENERAL ARNALDO RODRIGUES BARBALHO (NUMBER TWO MAN IN MINISTRY IE, EQUIVALENT TO DEPUTY SECRETARY). US-PROPOSED AGENDA AND TERMS OF REFERENCE WOULD BE BASES FOR FIRST MEETING. EMBASSY PRESSING FOR BETTER GOB INVENTORY OF ON GOING AND PLANNED ENERGY R/D TO ASSIST PREPARATIONS FOR MEETING.

4. IN JUNE CNP PROPOSED DELAY OF SEMI-ANNUAL NSF/CNP REVIEW OF BILATERAL PROJECTS ON ASSUMPTION S&T SUBGROUP WOULD MEET IN EARLY AUGUST. CNP HAD IMPRESSION FROM PHONE CONVERSATION WITH NSF AT THAT TIME THAT NSF HAD SOME FLEXIBILITY IN ITS LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM--IE, THAT FUNDS EARMARKED FOR BRAZIL THIS QUARTER MIGHT BE USED ELSEWHERE AT A LATER TIME. NOW THAT THE S&T SUBGROUP WILL NOT MEET BEFORE MID-SEPTEMBER, CNP IS PREPARED TO SEND DR. DE WIT TO WASHINGTON AT NSF'S CONVIENCE TO DISCUSS THE COMMITMENT OF THE REMAINING 1976 FUNDS (IN CNP'S CASE, APPROXIMATELY \$20,000--THE REMAINING 10 PER CENT OF THE INITIAL AMOUNT). CNP AND THE GOB CANNOT AGREE TO DISCUSSION OF ASSIGNMENT OF 1977 FUNDS TO PRESENT JOINT BILATERAL PROJECTS SINCE THEY BELIEVE THESE ARE THE ONLY FUNDS PRESENTLY ALLOCATED BY EITHER GOB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR USG TO OVERALL S&T COOPERATION AND SHOULD NOT BE COMMITTED UNTIL THE S&T SUBGROUP HAS MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN DEFINING THE DIRECTIONS AND DIMENSION OF FUTURE COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE US. CNP AND EMBASSY REQUEST CLARIFICATION OF WHICH FUNDS ALLOCATED BY NSF TO US-BRAZIL PROGRAM MIGHT BE LOST AS A RESULT OF FURTHER DELAY IN PROJECT DISCUSSIONS.

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